IN THE CLAIMS:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

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50. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container provided with an internal spool and an additional spoolless film container having a length of film a majority of which is wound in the spoolless film container, and which extends to the first film container, comprising the sequential steps of:

a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a film winding tool;

b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil about the tool;

c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;

d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll to give a trailing end;

e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.

51. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 wherein the first film container is a conventional film patrone having a central spool, at step e) the said trailing film end being secured to the central spool.

52. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 utilizing an additional container which comprises a housing which is closed by an end cap, the method involving, at step c), [~~winding the film onto the film winding tool, followed by~~] insertion of the tool having

the film wound about the tool end into the additional film container, followed by removal of the film winding tool from the coil.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 52 wherein after removal of the film winding tool the end cap is secured to the housing.

54. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 utilizing an additional film container which comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate to define a film slot therebetween and have opposed edge regions at which the shell halves are joinable, the method involving the step of, in a film winding apparatus, after step b), removing the film winding tool [~~and~~] followed by enclosing the wound coil between the two half shells, with the film extending from the film slot.

55. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 54 wherein the method includes the step of cutting the film from the bulk roll after it has been wound into the coil and before it is enclosed in the additional container.

56. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 further comprising the step of attaching a removable clip to secure the first film container and additional film container together.

57. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 further comprising the step of inserting the assembly of first film container and additional film container into a package which is sealed to contain the film containers.

58. (Previously Presented) A film assembly when loaded according to the method of claim 50.

59. (Previously Presented) A camera when loaded with a film assembly according to claim 58.

60. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a film assembly into a camera having a pair of film chambers arranged on opposite sides of an exposure opening and a camera back which closes the film chambers comprising the sequential steps of:

a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a film winding tool;

b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil about the tool;

c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;

d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll to give a trailing end;

e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container;

f) placing the film assembly in the camera with the containers in respective chambers and closing the camera back.

61. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 60 wherein utilizing an additional film container which comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate to define a film slot therebetween and have opposed edge regions at which the shell halves are joinable, the method involving the step of, in a film winding apparatus, after step b), removing the film winding tool [~~and~~] followed by enclosing the wound coil between the two half shells, with the film extending from the film slot.

62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 60 wherein the film carries pre-exposed latent images, the method involving at step f) the additional step of ensuring that an alignment mark on the film is arranged in alignment with an alignment mark on the camera so as to ensure correct alignment of user-exposed images and pre-exposed images.

63. (New) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container provided with an internal spool and an additional film container having a length of film a majority of which is wound in the additional film container, and which extends to the first film container, the additional film container having a housing free of any film spool and comprising a pair of shell halves which together define a film slot through which, in use, film may extend wherein each shell half is provided with an edge region which faces the edge region of the other shell half defining the film slot therebetween and defining a film exit plane, the two shell halves of the housing being joined along a plane substantially parallel to said exit plane, the method comprising the sequential steps of:

a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a film winding tool;

b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil about the tool;

c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;

d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll to give a trailing end;

e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.

64. (New) A method according to claim 63 wherein the shell halves of the additional film container having securing means providing a snap-fit connection therebetween, step c) involving connecting the shell halves through said snap-fit connection.

65. (New) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container provided with an intenal spool and an additional film container having a length of film a majority of which is wound in the additional film container, and which extends to the first film container, the additional film container having a housing free of any film spool and comprising a pair of shell halves which together define a film slot through which, in use, film may extend wherein each shell half is provided with an edge region which faces the edge region of the other shell half, defining the film slot therebetween and defining a film exit plane, the two shell halves of the housing being joined along a plane substantially perpendicular to said exit plane and parallel to the container axis, the method comprising the sequential steps of:

a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a film winding tool;

b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil about the tool;

c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;

d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll to give a trailing end;

e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.

66. (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein the shell halves of the additional film container have securing means providing a snap-fit connection therebetween, step c) involving connecting the shell halves through said snap-fit connection.